

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A conveyor section having an entrance and an exit, said conveyor configured to convey articles along a conveying surface in a downstream direction, said conveyor comprising:
  - a. a pair of spaced apart conveyor side frames extending in a longitudinal direction, said longitudinal direction being generally parallel to said downstream direction, said pair having a first end and a second end, said first end being disposed adjacent said entrance, said second end being disposed adjacent said exit, said first end being configured to be disposed higher than said second end;
  - b. a first plurality of spaced apart consecutive conveyor rollers defining at least a first part of said conveying surface and a second plurality of spaced apart consecutive conveyor rollers disposed downstream of said first plurality and defining at least a second part of said conveying surface, said second plurality of said conveying rollers being gravity rollers, each of said conveyor rollers having an axis of rotation and two spaced apart ends, each of said spaced apart ends being supported by a respective one of said conveyor side frames, each of said conveyor rollers being disposed transverse to said downstream direction;
  - c. a drive member carried by said conveyor, said drive member having a drive axis of rotation generally extending in said longitudinal direction;
  - d. said drive member being operatively connected to conveyor rollers of said first plurality of spaced apart conveyor rollers by at least one drive element, ~~said drive member not being connected to any conveyor rollers not part of said first plurality of conveyor rollers~~; and
  - e. a motor operatively connected only to said drive member so as to rotate said drive member about said drive axis of rotation.
2. (Original) The conveyor of claim 1, comprising a control configured to run said motor.
3. (Original) The conveyor of claim 1, comprising a sensor disposed to sense presence of an article on said conveyor section.

4. (Original) The conveyor of claim 3, wherein said first sensor is configured to sense the presence of an article within an area above said conveying surface, said area having a width extending transverse to said longitudinal direction and a length extending in said longitudinal direction.
5. (Previously Presented) The conveyor of claim 1, comprising a sensor disposed to sense presence of an article at a predetermined location downstream of said first plurality of spaced apart rollers.
6. (Currently Amended) The conveyor of claim 1, comprising;
  - a. a control configured to run said motor;
  - b. a first sensor disposed to sense presence of an article arriving at said entrance on said conveyor;
  - c. a second sensor disposed to sense presence of an article at a predetermined location on said second plurality of rollers downstream of said first plurality of rollers; and
  - d. said first and second sensors being connected to said control.
7. (Original) The conveyor of claim 6, wherein at least two rollers ~~a plurality~~ of said first plurality of conveyor rollers are is skewed with respect to said downstream direction.
8. (Currently Amended) The conveyor of claim 1, wherein said drive member is disposed below said conveying surface ~~axis of rotation is disposed generally extending in said longitudinal direction~~.
9. (Previously Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) The conveyor of claim 1, wherein at least two rollers ~~a plurality~~ of said first plurality of conveyor rollers are is skewed with respect to said downstream direction.

11. (Original) The conveyor of claim 1, wherein said drive member comprises a tube.
12. (Original) The conveyor of claim 11, wherein said motor is disposed within said tube.
13. (Currently Amended) The conveyor of claim 1 comprising a plurality of drive members carried by said conveyor, each said drive member having a drive axis of rotation generally extending in said longitudinal direction, ~~wherein a plurality of said first plurality of conveyor rollers is skewed with respect to said downstream direction.~~
14. (Currently Amended) A conveyor system configured to convey articles in a downstream direction along a conveying surface, said conveyor comprising:
  - a. a plurality of declined gravity conveyor sections; and
  - b. a plurality of controlled conveyor sections, each said controlled conveyor section being disposed upstream of a respective one of said plurality of declined gravity conveyor sections, each of said controlled conveyor sections comprising:
    - i. a pair of spaced apart conveyor side frames extending in a longitudinal direction, said longitudinal direction being generally parallel to said downstream direction, said pair having a first end and a second end;
    - ii. a first plurality of spaced apart consecutive conveyor rollers defining at least a first part of said conveying surface, each of said conveyor rollers having an axis of rotation and two spaced apart ends, each of said spaced apart ends being supported by a respective one of said conveyor side frames, said conveyor roller being disposed transverse to said downstream direction;
    - iii. at least one drive member carried by said controlled conveyor section, said drive member having a respective drive axis of rotation generally extending in said longitudinal direction;
    - iv. each said drive member being operatively connected to a respective motor so as to rotate each of said drive members about its said respective drive axis of rotation; and

- v. ~~each~~ rollers of said first plurality of spaced apart conveyor rollers being connected to at least one of said at least one drive member by at least one of a plurality of drive elements such that rotation of said rollers of said first plurality of spaced apart conveyor rollers is controlled by said at least one drive member.

15. (Previously Presented) The conveying system of claim 14, wherein each controlled conveyor sections comprises:

- a. a control configured to run said respective motor;
- b. a first sensor disposed to sense presence of an article arriving at said entrance on ~~said controlled conveyor section~~;
- c. a second sensor disposed to sense presence of an article at a predetermined location on that gravity conveyor located downstream of said controlled conveyor section, said article having been discharged from said controlled conveyor section; and
- d. said first and second sensors being connected to said control.

16. (Currently Amended) The conveying system of claim 15, wherein at least two ~~a plurality~~ of said first plurality of conveyor rollers are ~~is~~ skewed with respect to said downstream direction.

17. (Previously Presented) The conveyor of claim 14, wherein at least one of said at least one drive member comprises a tube.

18. (Previously Presented) The conveyor of claim 17, wherein said respective motor is disposed within said tube.

19. (Currently Amended) The conveyor of claim 14, wherein at least one of said at least one drive member is disposed below said conveying surface ~~axis of rotation of said respective drive axes is disposed generally extending in said longitudinal direction~~.

20. (Currently Amended) A conveyor section having an entrance and an exit, said conveyor configured to convey articles along a conveying surface in a downstream direction, said conveyor comprising:

- a. a pair of spaced apart conveyor side frames extending in a longitudinal direction, said longitudinal direction being generally parallel to said downstream direction, said pair having a first end and a second end, said first end being disposed adjacent said entrance, said second end being disposed adjacent said exit, said first end being configured to be disposed higher than said second end;
- b. a first plurality of spaced apart consecutive conveyor rollers defining at least a first part of said conveying surface and a second plurality of spaced apart consecutive conveyor rollers disposed upstream of said first plurality and defining at least a second part of said conveying surface, said second plurality of said conveying rollers being gravity rollers, each of said conveyor rollers having an axis of rotation and two spaced apart ends, each of said spaced apart ends being supported by a respective one of said conveyor side frames, each of said conveyor rollers being disposed transverse to said downstream direction;
- c. a drive member carried by said conveyor, said drive member having a drive axis of rotation generally extending in said longitudinal direction;
- d. said drive member being operatively connected to rollers of said first plurality of spaced apart conveyor rollers by at least one drive element; ~~said drive member not being connected to any conveyor rollers not part of said first plurality of conveyor rollers~~; and
- e. a motor operatively connected only to said drive member so as to rotate said drive member about said drive axis of rotation.

21. (Previously Presented) The conveyor of claim 20, comprising a control configured to run said motor.

22. (Previously Presented) The conveyor of claim 20, comprising a sensor disposed to sense presence of an article on said conveyor section.

23. (Previously Presented) The conveyor of claim 22, wherein said first sensor is configured to sense the presence of an article within an area above said conveying surface, said area having a width extending transverse to said longitudinal direction and a length extending in said longitudinal direction.

24. (Previously Presented) The conveyor of claim 20, comprising a sensor disposed to sense presence of an article at a predetermined location downstream of said first plurality of spaced apart rollers.

25. (Currently Amended) The conveyor of claim 20, comprising;

- a. a control configured to run said motor;
- b. a first sensor disposed to sense presence of an article on said conveyor section;
- c. a second sensor disposed to sense presence of an article at a predetermined location downstream of said first plurality of rollers; and
- d. said first and second sensors being connected to said control.

26. (Currently Amended) The conveyor of claim 25, wherein at least two rollers ~~a plurality~~ of said first plurality of conveyor rollers are ~~is~~ skewed with respect to said downstream direction.

27. (Currently Amended) The conveyor of claim 20, wherein said drive member is disposed below said conveying surface ~~axis of rotation is disposed generally extending in said longitudinal direction~~.

28. (Currently Amended) The conveyor of claim 20, wherein at least two ~~a plurality~~ of said first plurality of conveyor rollers are ~~is~~ skewed with respect to said downstream direction.

29. (Previously Presented) The conveyor of claim 20, wherein said drive member comprises a tube.

30. (Previously Presented) The conveyor of claim 29, wherein said motor is disposed within said tube.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A conveyor system configured to convey articles in a downstream direction along a conveying surface, said conveyor comprising:

- a. a plurality of declined gravity conveyor sections; and
- b. a plurality of controlled conveyor sections, each said controlled conveyor section being disposed upstream of a respective one of said plurality of declined gravity conveyor sections, each of said controlled conveyor sections comprising:
  - i. a pair of spaced apart conveyor side frames extending in a longitudinal direction, said longitudinal direction being generally parallel to said downstream direction, said pair having a first end and a second end;
  - ii. a first plurality of spaced apart consecutive conveyor rollers defining at least a first part of said conveying surface, each of said conveyor rollers having an axis of rotation and two spaced apart ends, each of said spaced apart ends being supported by a respective one of said conveyor side frames, said conveyor roller being disposed transverse to said downstream direction;
  - iii. at least one motor driven roller drive member carried by said controlled conveyor section, said motor driven roller drive member having a respective drive axis of rotation generally extending in said longitudinal direction; and
  - ~~iv. each said drive member being operatively connected to a respective motor so as to rotate each of said drive members about its said respective drive axis of rotation; and~~
  - v. each rollers of said first plurality of spaced apart conveyor rollers being connected to at least one of said at least one drive member by at least one of a plurality of drive elements such that rotation of said rollers of said first plurality of spaced apart conveyor rollers is controlled by said at least one motor driven roller drive member.

33. (Currently Amended) The conveying system of claim 31, wherein each controlled conveyor sections comprises:

- a. a control configured to run each of said at least one motor driven roller ~~respective motor~~;
- b. a first sensor disposed to sense presence of an article on said controlled conveyor section;
- c. a second sensor disposed to sense presence of an article at a predetermined location on that gravity conveyor located downstream of said controlled conveyor section, said article having been discharged from said controlled conveyor section; and
- d. said first and second sensors being connected to said control.

34. (Currently Amended) The conveying system of claim 33, wherein at least two ~~a plurality~~ of said first plurality of conveyor rollers are ~~is~~ skewed with respect to said downstream direction.

35. (Currently Amended) The conveyor of claim 33, wherein at least one of said at least one motor driven roller is disposed below said conveying surface ~~drive member comprises a tube~~.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)